

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03937 01 OF 02 091520Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----069619 091529Z /45

O R 091417Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1378
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 3937

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, IS, SY, KU
SUBJECT: LEBANON: CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03937 01 OF 02 091520Z

REF: (A) STATE 171142 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 172481, (C) KUWAIT
3862

1. KHALED BABBAIN, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS
AT MFA, AND IBRAHIM AL-MOOSA, ACTING CHIEF OF ARAB AFFAIRS
SECTION, RECEIVED ME TOGETHER JULY 9 FOR DISCUSSION OF
LEBANON. FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD HAD

LEFT FOR DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT JULY 8, WITH GOK
AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON ABDUL HAMID AL-BU'AYJAN, WITH
MESSAGES FROM AMIR FOR PRES. ASAD AND PRES. SARKIS.
MFA OFFICERS WERE NOT AWARE OF SPECIFIC CONTENTS OF
AMIR'S MESSAGES, BUT WERE CERTAIN THAT PRIMARY OBJECTIVE
OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP WAS TO PERSUADE SARKIS NOT
TO RESIGN.

2. IN MY PRESENTATION BASED ON REFTELS I EMPHASIZED THE
CONTINUING US COMMITMENT TO LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
AND USG SUPPORT FOR PRES. SARKIS AS PERHAPS IRREPLACEABLE,
CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN WORKING OUT IMMEDIATE ARRANGEMENTS TO
DEFUSE THE SITUATION AND ACHIEVE LONGER TERM STABILITY.

3. IT WAS APPARENT FROM QUESTIONS AL-MOOSA ASKED THAT
THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST SOME SUSPICION IN MFA MINDS
THAT USG VIEWS CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS IN LEBANON WITH SPECIAL
FAVOR. I SAID THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF ANY SEPARATE CHRISTIAN STATE AND DO NOT SUPPORT RECENT
CHRISTIAN CALLS FOR THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE TO WITHDRAW
FROM LEBANON. I SAID THAT WE WERE POINTING OUT TO
CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS THE GRAVE DANGERS OF A PARTITIONIST
COURSE AND OF PROVOCATIONS TO WHICH SYRIANS MIGHT HAVE TO
REPLY. I SAID THAT WE HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED AND APPRECIATED
THE ROLE OF THE ADF IN LEBANON AND CONSIDERED ITS PRESENCE
LEGITIMATE SO LONG AS THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WISHED THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03937 01 OF 02 091520Z

ADF TO STAY. I NOTED, AND MFA OFFICIALS AGREED, THAT THE
SPECIFIC ORIGINS OF LAST WEEK'S INTENSE FIGHTING REMAIN
OBSCURE BUT THAT THE LEVEL OF THE SYRIAN RESPONSE HAD
PROBABLY BEEN EXTREME AND HAD CAUSED NEEDLESS CIVILIAN
SUFFERING. NONETHELESS, I WANTED KUWATIS TO KNOW THAT USG
HAD BEEN TALKING IN A VERY SATISFACTORY WAY WITH THE SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR MANY MONTHS AND THAT THIS DIALOGUE HAD
CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE PRESENT CRISIS. I SAID WE HAD BEEN
GRATIFIED WHEN SYRIANS TOLD US THEIR TROOPS HAD BEEN
ORDERED TO SHOW RESTRAINT.

4. HAVING ESTABLISHED THAT GOK OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS
LEBANON, I.E. SUPPORT FOR SARKIS, PRESERVATION OF
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY FOR
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, MATCHED STATED OBJECTIVES
OF USG, BABBAIN GAVE OPINION THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS OF
LEBANON TODAY ARE THE RESULT OF CONTINUING, UNSETTLED
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. IT HAD BEEN PALESTINIAN PRESSURE ON
THE FRAGILE BALANCE IN LEBANESE SOCIETY AND ON THE INHERENTLY
WEAK LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD PRECIPITATED LEBANESE
TRAGEDY OF THE LAST FEW YEARS. IN ABSENCE OF SOLUTION TO
PALESTINE PROBLEM, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE REESTABLISH-

MENTOF THE OLD LEBANON. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUE COULD PROVIDE NO DIRECTIONS FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE KIND OF LEBANON WHICH EXISTED BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR, BUT THEY AGREED THAT THE ELIMINATION OF ANY MAJOR FACTION OF LEBANESE SOCIETY AS A MEANS TO STABILITY WAS UNACCEPTABLE. THEY OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT VISIBLE ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR, AND ALLIANCE WITH, LEBANESE CHRISTIANS, WHILE UNDERSTANDABLE, WOULD ALWAYS BE A SOURCE OF SERIOUS TROUBLE. BABTAIN AGREED WITH MY COMMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO STOPPING ISRAELI EFFORTS TO PRECLUDE LEBANON'S BECOMING A CONFRONTATION STATE, IF EVENTS SEEMED LEADING IN THAT DIRECTION.

5. I MENTIONED FACT THAT WE HAVE PRESENTED SUGGESTIONS TO SYRIANS CONCERNING MEASURES TO BE TAKEN ON THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 KUWAIT 03937 01 OF 02 091520Z

GROUND TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED SERIOUS CHRISTIAN-SYRIAN CONFLICT. I SAID THAT NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH IDEAS WOULD BE LONG AND DIFFICULT. IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE PRESENT CEASE-FIRE BE CONTINUED AND THAT SARKIS' CRUCIAL ROLE AS NEGOTIATOR BE PRESERVED, TO LET THOSE NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED. MFA OFFLERS AGREED COMPLETELY.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03937 02 OF 02 091524Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----069622 091529Z /41

O R 091417Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1379
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
RUQMDMDVAMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 1245
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECRET SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 3937

EXDIS

6. COMMENT: I THINK BABTAIN AND AL-MOOSA BELIEVE MY
DESCRIPTION OF THE AMERICAN POSITION IN LEBANON AS ONE
OF DEEP CONCERN AND IMPARTIALITY. IT IS APPARENT TO
ME HOWEVER THAT OUR CREDIBILITY IN THIS RESPECT IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03937 02 OF 02 091524Z

FRAGILE. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR KUWAITIS NOT TO BELIEVE
THAT AS HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF THE
CHRISTIANS, WHETHER MERELY AS CORELIGIONARIES OR AS
FRIENDS OF OUR ISRAELI FRIENDS. FURTHERMORE, MANY KUWAITIS
CANNOT SEE ANYONE BENEFITING FROM CHAOS IN LEBANON
EXCEPT THE ISRAELIS, AND THIS LENDS CREDENCE TO SUGGESTIONS
THAT USG IS NOT UNHAPPY WITH, IF NOT IN FACT SUBTLY TRYING
TO PROLONG, CONTINUING CRISIS IN LEBANON. SUTHERLAND

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT03937
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780281-0870
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780782/aaaacqvj.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b97e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 171142, 78 STATE 172481
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2076272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS SECRET SECRET
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, IS, SY, KU, US, (AL-MOOSA, IBRAHIM), (BABTAIN, KHALED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b97e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014